



Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association

P.O. Box 577; Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 732 – 4454
www.hyaabaseball.org

Schley League Local Rules and Playing Philosophy

The primary goal of the Schley League is to further hone baseball skills and proficiencies in a positive team environment. Schley League is a division designed for 11 and 12 year olds (following established age scales). The game is played on a 70 foot diamond, 50 foot pitching mound, and all games are called by official umpires.

The following local rules apply to the HYAA Schley Division. Any rule, topic or situation not covered in this document will automatically default to the Cal Ripken rulebook. The league commissioner or site supervisor will have final ruling on any disputes.

Uniform / Protective Gear

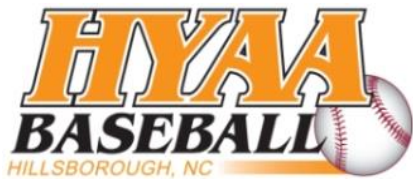
1. Playing uniform is defined as the HYAA team jersey, pant and hat. Jerseys must be tucked in, and hats facing forward. Uniform customization is prohibited with the exception of a players first name, last name or number embroidered (1/2" tall maximum) on their hat only.
2. Players must be in full uniform when playing in a league game. (Regular or Post-Season). Uniforms are not required for practice.
3. No player will be allowed to wear jewelry during practices or games.
4. It is strongly recommended that all male players wear a protective cup for both practices and games.
5. All male catchers are required to wear a protective cup.
6. The catcher is required to wear all protective gear, including leg guards, chest protector, and approved one-piece catcher helmet/mask with throat protection.
7. The catcher is not required to use a catcher's glove.
8. It is strongly recommended that all adult volunteers playing the catcher's position wear a protective cup and catcher's helmet.
9. All offensive players are required to wear batting helmets when anywhere in the field of play or in the batting cage – runners should not remove their helmet until in the dugout.

Equipment

1. The batting cages are for HYAA use only. Only one player and one coach will be allowed in the batting cage. Batting cages will be vacant during games.
2. Bat Rules
 - a. The bat may not exceed 33" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. Only 2 5/8" maximum barrel non-wood bats marked USA Baseball will be allowed. Wood 2 1/4" barrel bats are allowed.
 - b. Only approved bats should be present in the dugout.
 - c. If a player is caught using a non-approved bat before they bat, the bat will be immediately removed from the game.
 - d. If a player is caught using a non-approved bat during or after their at-bat, the batter will be called out, and any runners that advanced during the at-bat will return to the bases they occupied at the beginning of the at-bat. The bat will be immediately removed from the game.

Pre-Game

1. Coaches from both teams are responsible for site preparation on game days. This includes repairing any damage caused by water, gathering player and game equipment as well as repairing/removing safety issues (fence tears/rocks/etc...). The Home team is responsible for lining the infield to specification prior to game play.
2. Players are not permitted on the field until their coach arrives and it is time for warm-ups. Only players, coaches, and adult volunteers are permitted in the dugout.
3. Coaches must provide their batting order to the opposing team at least 5 minutes before game time. A team's batting order will consist of every player that is on the roster and at the game.
4. Games must start on time.



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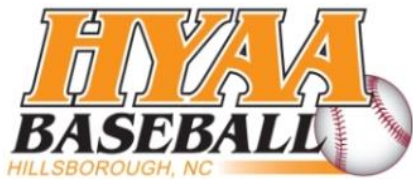
5. Each team will provide its own scorekeeper. The home team is the official scorekeeper. Scorekeepers should confer between innings to make sure they have the same score. If they are different, scorekeepers must notify the managers and home plate umpire before play resumes. The on-site field rep will stop game play until the discrepancy is resolved.
6. The home team will be responsible for running the concession stand. Coaches will assign a parent volunteer to run the concession stand prior to the start of the game. No kids under 14 are allowed in the concession stand without adult supervision or commissioner approval. The visiting HYAA team will be responsible for running the scoreboard. If the visiting team is from another league, the home team will run the scoreboard.
7. Thirty-five minutes prior to the game start time, the Home team will have use of the batting cage for 15 minutes. Twenty minutes prior to the game start time, the Visiting team will have use of the batting cage for 15 minutes. Both teams will be ready to start the game 5 minutes prior to the start time. Batting warm-ups will not be delayed for late arriving players.
8. Thirty-five minutes prior to the game start time, the Visitor team will have use of the field to warm-up for 15 minutes. Twenty minutes prior to the game start time, the Home team will have use of the field to warm-up for 15 minutes. All on-field warm-ups will end 5 minutes prior to the stated game start time. For second games on weeknights, there may not be any infield practice depending on the status of the first game.
9. A team may begin a game with a minimum of 7 players in uniform. If 7 players are not available at game time then that team must forfeit. If there is a forfeit the teams can play a scrimmage, however only players from the teams scheduled to play can participate. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting order immediately upon arriving no matter the point of the game. There is no "OUT" penalty for playing with 7 or 8 players.
10. Practices are scheduled by the commissioner only. There will be no extra team practices allowed. Rained out practices can be rescheduled based on field availability and commissioner approval.

General Game Play

1. Before the first pitch is released, coaches will agree on the game start time and the home team scorekeeper will record it. The game can be delayed or suspended due to weather conditions. On the rescheduled game date, the game will resume where it left off, including outs already recorded, runners on base, and at the batter who was up when the game was called. However, for regular season only, games where play has been stopped for darkness or weather will be considered complete if the minimum 4 inning (3 ½ if the home team is leading) have been completed. In this circumstance, the score reverts to the last completed inning and the game is final.
2. Game duration will be a minimum of 4 innings and a maximum of 6 innings. For weeknight "back to back" games, a new inning cannot commence after 90 minutes from actual game start time. For Saturday games and weeknight single games, a new inning cannot commence after 105 minutes from actual game start time. A new inning is considered "started" at the same instant that the third out of the previous inning is recorded. The home team shall be entitled to complete any inning started, unless leading into the bottom half of the final inning.
4. Each team will be allowed two time outs per inning with a time limit of one minute. The pitcher must be removed from the game on a manager's second trip to the mound in one inning.
5. A five run rule will be in affect each inning. Play ends if one team is ahead by 11 runs after 4 innings, or by 6 runs after 5 innings.
6. Starting players must play a complete inning in the field before they can be substituted unless there is an injury.

Offensive Game Play

1. Offensive coaching will be limited to base coaches at first and third base.



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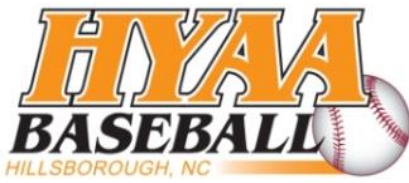
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2. A continuous batting order will be used. All players on the team roster will bat regardless of their play defensively. If a player is unable to continue playing in the game, their batting spot will be skipped without penalty.
3. The batter must have both feet in the batter's box when the ball is hit. If one foot is out of the box when the ball is hit, the batter will be called out.
4. Baserunning rules:
 - a. Base runners may take a lead up to 10 foot lead line. Runners cannot advance beyond the lead line until the ball has crossed home plate. Runners passing the lead line before the ball crosses the plate will be called out.
 - b. Base runners may not advance when the pitcher has returned to the pitching rubber with the ball in his / her possession.
 - c. Sliding: Base runners must slide feet first on all close plays, except when going to first base. In the umpire's opinion, if a player does not slide on a close play, the runner will be called out and the ball will be dead. A player is automatically out for sliding head first or for sliding into 1st base. A dive back into a base from a lead or overrunning a base is not considered a head first slide.
 - d. Base coaches cannot touch base runners while the ball is in play. If a coach touches a runner, the runner is out. If this is the third out, any runs scored during this play do not count.
5. The catcher must have a pinch runner if on base with 2 outs. The pinch runner will be the player who made the last out. If less than 2 outs, the catcher must run for him/herself.
6. Drop third strike rule, player may steal 1st if the base is unoccupied or if 1st base is occupied with 2 outs. A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught and is not in the process of running to 1st base within the baseline will be called out.

Defensive Game Play

1. Each player must play a minimum of 1 inning of defense in the infield. No player can sit out a 2nd inning of defense until all players have sat out 1 inning of defense. Penalty for not following this rule is forfeiture of the game. If the player's non-participation is a result of the manager's deliberate action, the manager will be suspended for one game. A second violation by the same manager will result in permanent suspension from managing or coaching in HYAA. If a coach feels a player's safety is at risk with the mandatory inning of infield play, a meeting between the coach, player parent, and commissioner is required to create an exception for that player.
1. No chatter directed towards the batter will be allowed at any time.
2. Any ball hit out of bounds (ex: under the fence) is live until the defensive player holds their hands up to the umpire signaling to the ball out of play.
3. The infield fly rule is recognized and enforced.
4. To stop play, the defensive team must make the lead runner stop.
5. The distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate will be at 50 feet.
6. Pitchers will be permitted to pitch two innings per game. However, once a pitcher is taken out, he cannot return to the mound during that game. An inning will be counted if a single live pitch is thrown.
7. Any Pitcher hitting three batters in one game must be removed from the mound.



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8. There is no penalty for balks however it is strongly recommended an umpire calls a balk and explains his call to the pitcher, but the result of the call is “no play.” This approach is instructional and amounts to giving the pitcher a “warning” of what is an illegal maneuver. If the infraction is repeatedly made by a single pitcher, the umpire has the authority to remove the pitcher from the game as a pitcher only. Leniency will be stressed as this is a teaching/learning process.

Post-Game

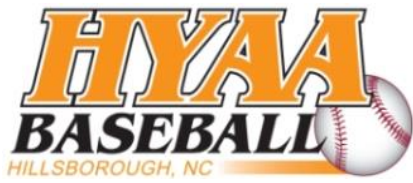
1. Visitor team is responsible for dragging the field and repairing the mound after the game, unless the visiting team is from another league, then the home team is responsible for dragging the field and repairing the mound. Both teams are also responsible for cleaning the dugout and emptying all trash cans into the dumpster.
2. Managers are responsible for communicating game score and any issues to the commissioner.
3. All coaches need to make certain that all facilities are cleaned and locked up before leaving
4. Last team to play or practice on Saturday will be responsible for field maintenance. This will include trash pickup for the entire field, dragging the field, repairs to the mound and batters box and restroom cleaning. This will be a team effort, participation is required.

Officiating / Sportsmanship

1. The umpire has authority over the field of play, and has authority to eject coaches, assistant coaches, players, and spectators at any time while at the field of play. The league commissioner or field representative may be consulted to interpret local rules; however, the umpire’s ruling is final.
2. The umpire may issue one warning prior to the start of the game for the following:
 - a. Any offensive language by the manager, players, or spectators.
 - b. Any team member throwing any piece of equipment or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.
 - c. Any player throwing a bat will be called out.
3. Only head coaches are allowed on the field to discuss any call with the umpire. If needed, scorekeepers, assistant coaches, and / or the league’s nightly field supervisor may be called in. The umpire, commissioner and field supervisor have the authority to eject coaches, assistant coaches, players, and spectators at any time while at the field of play. Any person ejected must leave the premises immediately. The incident will be referred to HYAA Board of Directors for further action at the discretion of the Board up to and including expulsion from the league.
4. Any coach, player or spectator exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior (verbal or physical), or throwing any piece of equipment in an unsportsmanlike manner while at the field of play will be ejected. The incident will be referred to the HYAA Board of Directors for further action at the discretion of the Board up to and including expulsion from the league.

Weather Policy

1. Coaches will decide the adverse weather policy for their own practices. For games, the coaches will communicate and let the commissioner know 2 hours before the game time, to allow adequate notification of parents.
2. When there is any lightning visible in the area, play will immediately stop and players will seek nearest shelter. After a minimum of 15 minutes from the last lightning strike, play may resume at the umpires' discretion, keeping safety of all the children at the highest priority.



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Tournament (Spring Only):

1. See the HYAA Tournament Rules document for rules about how various tournaments and world series games will be conducted.

World Series (Spring Only):

1. The World Series consists of two teams playing until one team wins 3 games.
2. Home team is determined by a coin toss prior to the first game and then teams alternate as home and visitor for subsequent games.
3. Regular season rules apply with the following modifications:
 - a. Games are played without a time limit.
 - b. Games cannot end in a tie. Extra innings will be played until there is a winner.